

**April 22, 2020 Board of Health Meeting
Webex Meeting**

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:34 pm
The meeting was called to order by Merey Price

Board Members Present**Quorum is reached (roll call)**

Emily Berge
Donald Bodeau
Jennifer Eddy
Terry Miskulin
Martha Nieman
Merey Price
Elizabeth Spencer

Staff Members Present:

Lieske Giese
Marissa Stanley
Denise Wirth
Janice Vinopal
Tegan Ruland
Gina Holt (recorder)

Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda

- None made

Public Comment:

- None made

Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes from February 26, 2020 meeting
- Approval of Overdose Fatality Review Grant
- Approval of Public Health Week proclamation

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Liz Spencer

2nd Motion: Don Bodeau

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

Business Item

- Quarterly Financial
 - Financial impact of COVID 19 discussion-most will be noticed in the 2nd quarter report. There will be an impact on revenue coming in. Some of the grants that we typically are expending we have permission to use for COVID-19 some we do not.
 - There could be some potential policy changes around fees.

Motion to receive the Quarterly Financial Review: Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Jennifer Eddy

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

b. Approval of Isolation or Quarantine Funds for COVID-19

- This is a fund that is available to local health departments throughout the state. This is a very unusual funding source that we have available to use from State tax dollars. The Wisconsin state of emergency is declared until May 11th, which means that this pot of money can only be used until that date.
- Discussion regarding COVID 19 and feedback received regarding the level of care.
- There is not necessarily a dollar limit, but the date is May 11th. All reasonable costs are to be covered.
- Significant advocacy regarding the extension of the state of emergency could be a future ask.

Motion to approve of Isolation or Quarantine Funds for COVID-19 as presented by Health Department Staff: Don Bodeau

2nd Motion: Jennifer Eddy

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

c. Approval of Tobacco Prevention and Control funding

- There is a clear need for education and policy efforts to address the use of vaping.
- The funds will be used to hire a Youth Advocacy Advisor in the Community Health Promotion Division.
- Discussion regarding a plan on the work those that will be involved.

Motion to approve Tobacco Prevention and Control funding as presented by Health

Department Staff: Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Liz Spencer

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

d. Approval of Overdose Data to Action Community Prevention Grant

- This grant is a new grant and considerable work has been done tying together new needs that were identified and addressing some opportunities for prevention.
- There were 12 overdose fatalities in 2018. 2019 data showed that there were also 12 overdose fatalities, although that data is still being finalized.
- The Police Department is concerned about increase in numbers of overdoses in the community.
- Discussion regarding the role of the Alliance and the work around opiates.
 - This grant is very specific to opioids but there is clear understanding that the work really touches more than opioids. The prevention strategies will reach further than just opioids.
 - There is a broad group of partners working on this grant. We received letters of support from a broad group of partners.

Motion to approval of Overdose Data to Action Community Prevention Grant as presented by Health Department Staff: Don Bodeau

2nd Motion: Liz Spencer

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

e. Approval of BOH policy – Remote Meetings during Emergency

- We are still trying to work through the legal requirements moving forward on having the ability to have remote meetings in non-emergent situations.
- Discussion on what defines an emergency. The policy is broad to allow for other situations that may occur.

Motion to approval of BOH policy – Remote Meetings during Emergency as presented by Health Department Staff: Jennifer Eddy

2nd Motion: Martha Nieman

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

f. Approval of ECCCHD Personnel and Handbook policy changes during Emergency

- Emergency telecommuting-a large number of employees are working off site.
- Physical Distancing- For those employees that are coming into the office there has been clear guidelines regarding social distancing as well as monitoring for illness.
- Flexible leave-we wanted to acknowledge that if staff members need to quarantine, leave would not have such an impact. For example, if staff had to use leave without pay. This was based a federal act that was set making sure that employees had some protection.
- The policies were pulled together to address situations that occurred directly as a result of the emergent situation.
- On-call reimbursement policy reviewed.
- Compensatory time policy reviewed.
- Telehealth policy reviewed.
- Instant messaging policy reviewed.
- Discussion on human resource policy regarding traveling-as time goes on that could be something that the department talks about. Employees are expected to be following the same guidelines as the governor has ordered. Decisions would have to be made if an employee were not following the quarantine guidelines.
- There may be financial implications due to some of the policy changes. There will be a discussion in the future regarding dollars in and out as a result of the outbreak.

Motion to approval of ECCCHD Personnel and Handbook policy changes during Emergency as presented by Health Department Staff: Liz Spencer

2nd Motion: Donald Bodeau

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

g. Approval of Health Officer-Director Succession Plan-enclosed

- These are all things that had been verbally discussed. but needed to be formally documented.

- Critically important that statutory and administrative functions are covered in the director's absence.

Motion to approval of Health Officer-Director Succession Plan as presented by Health

Department Staff: Liz Spencer

2nd Motion: Martha Nieman

Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes

Ayes: Emily Berge, Donald Bodeau, Jennifer, Eddy, Terry Miskulin, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, Elizabeth Spencer

Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board

- a. Director/Health Officer Report
 - Administrative professional's day acknowledgment.
 - Jeff Rob, Regulation, and licensing division manager started his employment.
 - The City did a Public Health Week Proclamation.
 - There have been a lot of daily affirmations going on in the department to keep staff spirits up.
 - Audrey and the team have been working hard on the briefings.
 - COVID numbers shared and discussed.
- b. Correspondence/Media
 - No discussion
- c. Service Recognition-
 - Claudia Cater- Retirement- Public Health Nutritionist, 12 Years
 - Iris Lang, Environmental Health Specialist, 5 years
 - Trish Chmelik, Program Assistant, 10 years
 - Gail Feltz, WIC Clerk, 10 years
 - Alice Hampton, Spanish Interpreter, 10 years
 - Tate Zurbachen, Environmental Health Specialist, 25 years
- d. County Health Rankings –<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
 - No discussion
- e. COVID 19 Planning and Update
 - We are hoping to increase testing in the area. Current numbers tested in Eau Claire County today were discussed.
 - The Incident Command action plan was reviewed. Incident command is a formal way to respond during the emergency. Lieske walked through what a day in the incident command looks like. There is a rhythm to how the work is being done with the department as well as our partners.
 - Communication both internal and external is critically important and takes an enormous amount of time. Communication is a priority. A large amount of time is spent working with the state and being a voice for public health.
 - The City and the County put together an agreement for expenditures for COVID-19. While it was to signal that the City and the County support the Health Department during this time, the health department wasn't part of creating the agreement.
 - We will continue to have challenges moving forward.
 - Discussion on what rolls of the board may need to be taken

- Advocacy-Discussion on what will happen if the Court strikes down the next order and what may have to be done locally. One example discussed would be if a local order would be implemented to put a frame around containment may be. In the beginning there was an ordinance created regarding distancing outside that was a bit more than the state guidance was. The health department does not get advance notice of the orders as they are coming from the state. Often the department is finding out the same time as the general public.
- Funding-We know that for public health it will take a long time to work through and we know that we will have an ongoing impact. Grants moving forward and other tax levy funding activities and prioritizing.
- Communication throughout the community-There is a regional phone call with local health departments daily, so we are in communication amongst each other. We are currently meeting with hospitals regularly and each of the hospitals have identified their existing capacity and the surge against the wall's capacity. An alternate care site has been identified where overflow would go for those that need medical care but do not need ICU care they need an intermediary or step-down facility, which was developed with hospital partners.
- Discussion regarding regional opening and possible disconnect-There is a very strong push for regional reopening and a very large portion of elected officials are pushing that. We have been asking for clear messaging from the state regarding what that would look like but have not received any feedback. There may be a strong push to move a certain way that is not supported by the Public Health officials in Madison.
- Discussion regarding the psychological impact- Outreaching during the times when people are feeling anger and frustration. Moving from where we are now and where we go next, messaging is very important.

Board member informational items

- a. Public Health Policy/Advocacy-
 - Update on WPHA/WALHDAB legislative action. The legislative group has been actively working during this time. The board expressed their openness to advocate when needed.
 - Eau Claire Healthy Communities Celebration- Postponed
- b. WPHA/WALHDAB annual conference, May 2020

Requests from Board members for future agenda items to be given consideration

None requested

Next scheduled BOH meeting is May 27, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Mere Price adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.